(Washington, DC) Congressman Alcee L. Hastings (D-FL), Education and the Workforce Committee Chairman John Kline, Congressman Robert Andrews (D-NJ) and a group 113 Members of Congress sent the following bipartisan letter to President Obama requesting that the Department of Education (DOE) withdraw its proposed "gainful employment" regulation. This regulation would place arbitrary restrictions on private-sector colleges and universities that would disproportionately affect the most disadvantaged students. The House of Representatives passed a bipartisan amendment to H.R. 1, the Full Year Continuing Appropriations Act of 2011

, by a vote of 289-136, which would have blocked the implementation of this regulation. Furthermore, the letter expresses disappointment that this language was not included in the final legislation, which appropriated funds through the end of Fiscal Year 2011. It also urges the administration to withdraw this regulation and work with Congress to enact meaningful reforms to our nation's higher education system that preserve access to postsecondary education and expand career choices for all Americans.

(Please find below and attached a copy of the letter).

April 27, 2011

The Honorable Barack Obama President of the United States The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

We write to express our disappointment that language was not included in the final, compromise funding measure for fiscal year 2011 prohibiting the Department of Education from implementing its misguided regulation defining "gainful employment."

In your first State of the Union, you proclaimed the United States would once again lead the world in college graduates by 2020. However, contrary to this objective, the Department's arbitrary proposed rules on private sector colleges and universities will disproportionately affect the most disadvantaged of students and limit access to one of the few sectors of higher education that continually evolves to meet workforce needs.

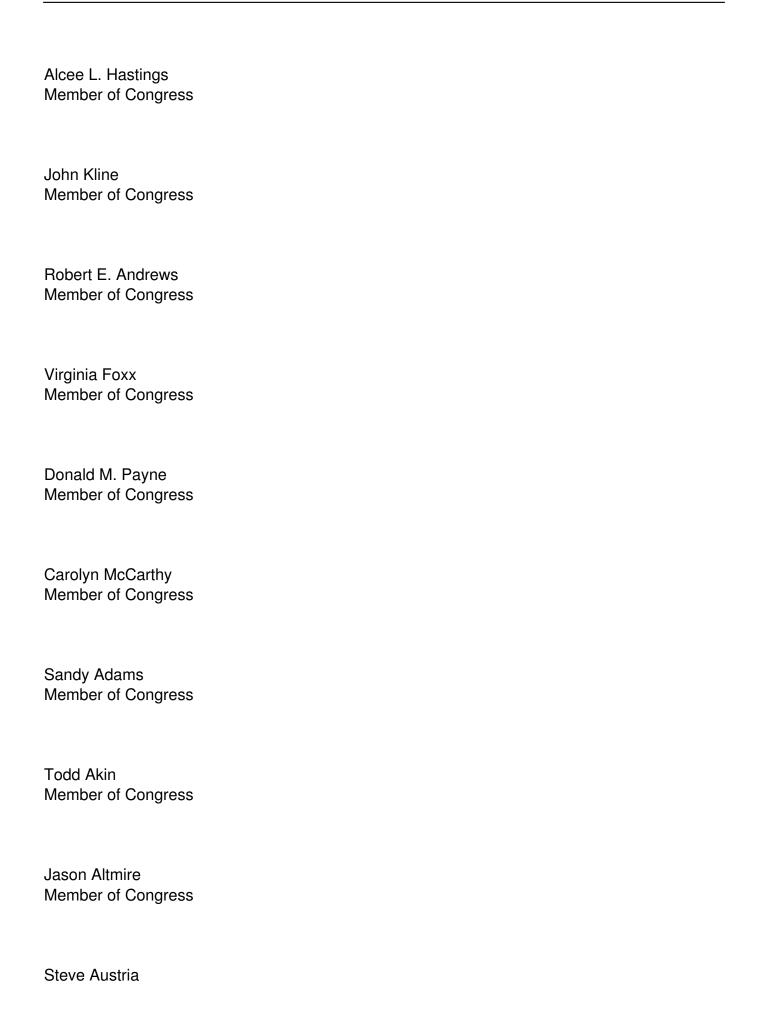
While the regulations attempt to address real problems, they miss the target. Instead, the implementation of these new rules will be so burdensome and the projected impact so broad that many reputable schools, particularly those serving the most at-risk students, will be adversely impacted. These rules will limit student access to higher education while failing to effectively address problem schools and rising student debt.

Today, over 3 million students attend career colleges. Seventy-six percent of these students live independently, without parental support. Sixty-three percent are 24 years old or older. Fifty-four percent delayed postsecondary education after high school. Forty-seven percent have dependent children, and almost one-third of these students are single parents. The Department's suggested approach will harm these nontraditional and lower-income students who have no choice but to rely on student loans to pursue a postsecondary education and need the flexibility career colleges provide.

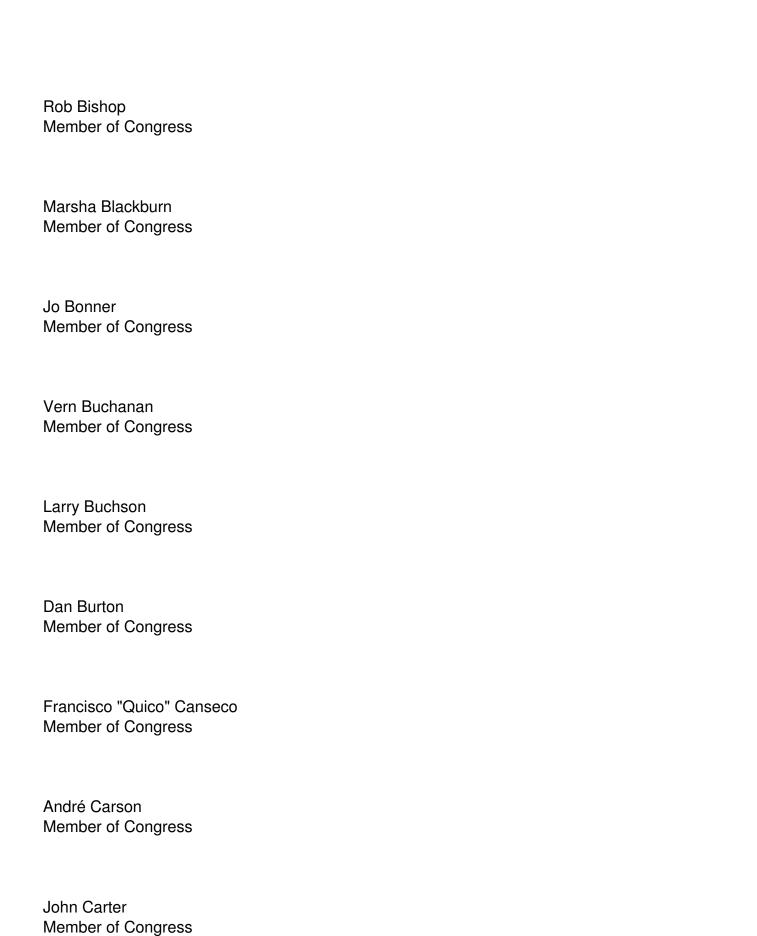
Given the significant impact of this proposed rule, the only responsible course of action is for the Department to completely withdraw this regulation and work with Congress to develop policies that truly protect taxpayer funds and measure and improve educational quality across all sectors of higher education.

The House of Representatives passed by a wide, bipartisan vote of 289 to 136 an amendment to H.R. 1, the Full Year Continuing Appropriations Act of 2011, which would have done just that. Though we are disappointed this language was not included in the final legislation, we hope that as we move forward, you will encourage the Department to jettison its current rule and work with us to enact meaningful reforms to our higher education system that preserve access to postsecondary education and expand career choices for all Americans.

Sincerely,



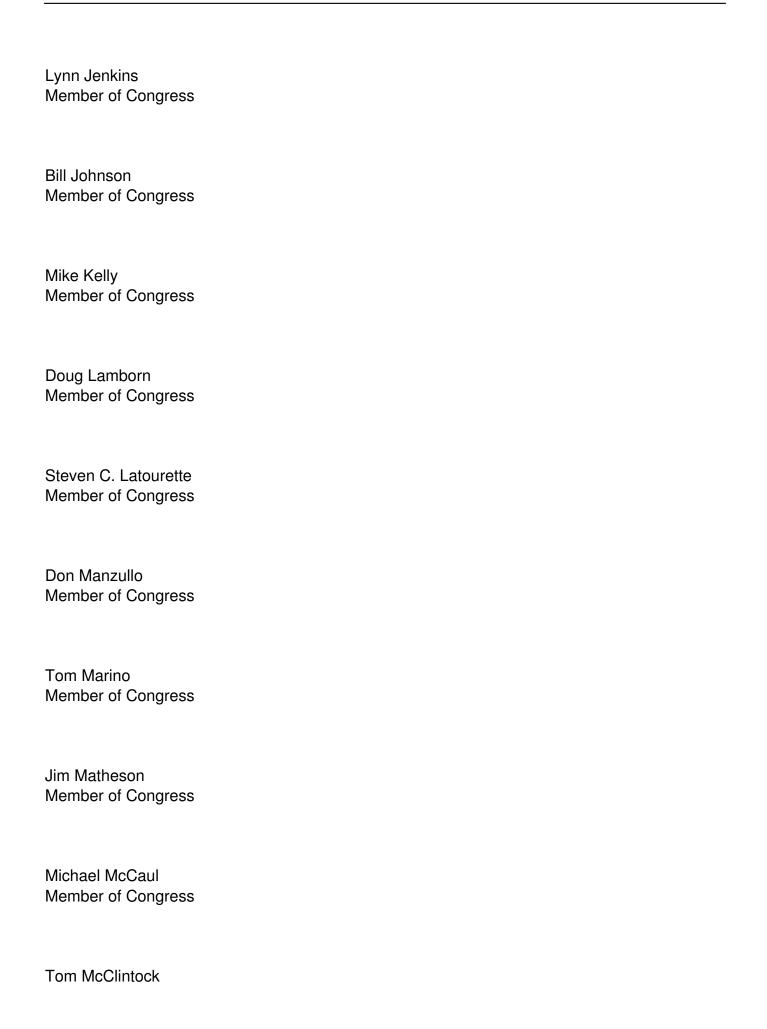


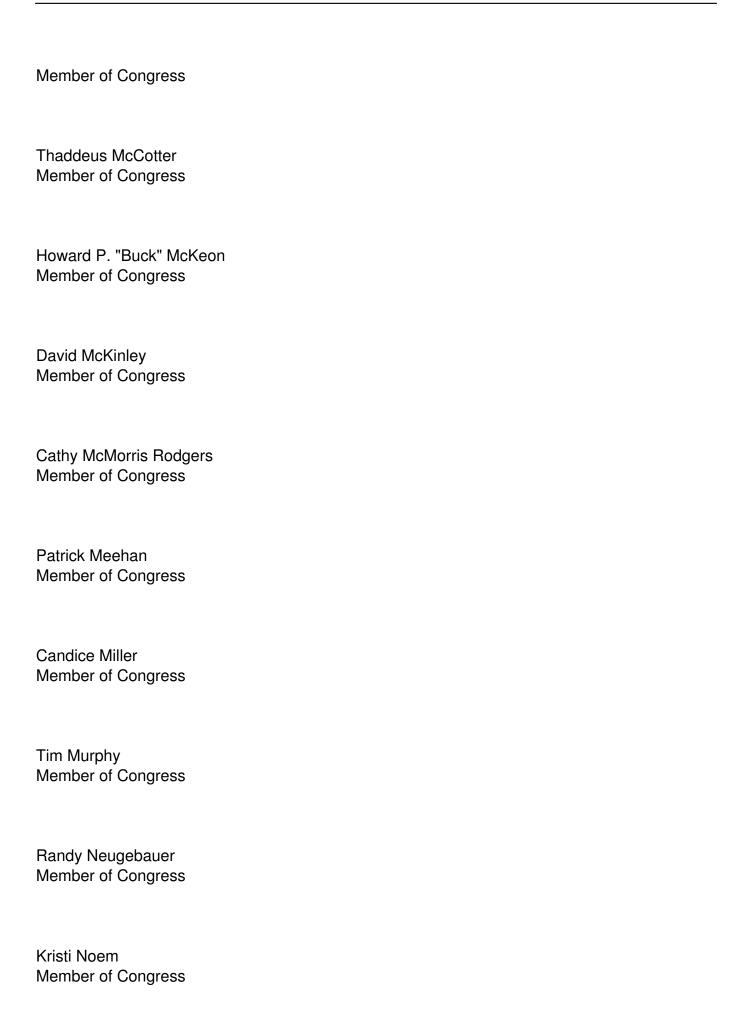


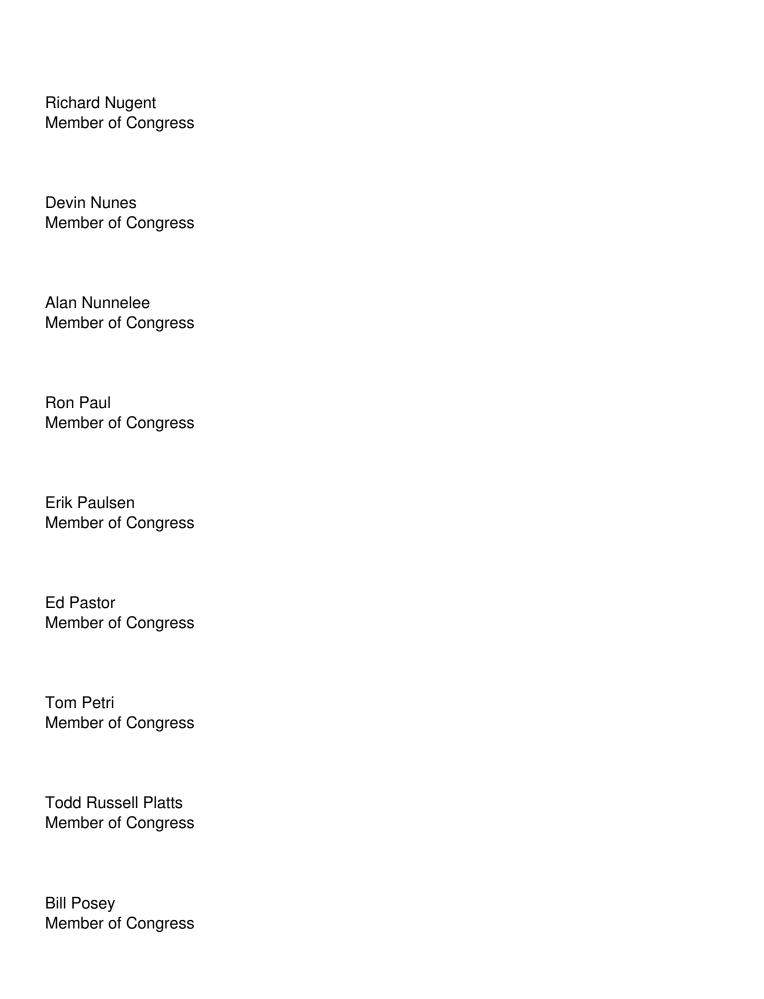


Member of Congress		
Elliot L. Engel Member of Congress		
Blake Farenthold Member of Congress		
Stephen Fincher Member of Congress		
Mike Fitzpatrick Member of Congress		
Jeff Flake Member of Congress		
Trent Franks Member of Congress		
Jim Gerlach Member of Congress		
Bob Goodlatte Member of Congress		
Kay Granger Member of Congress		

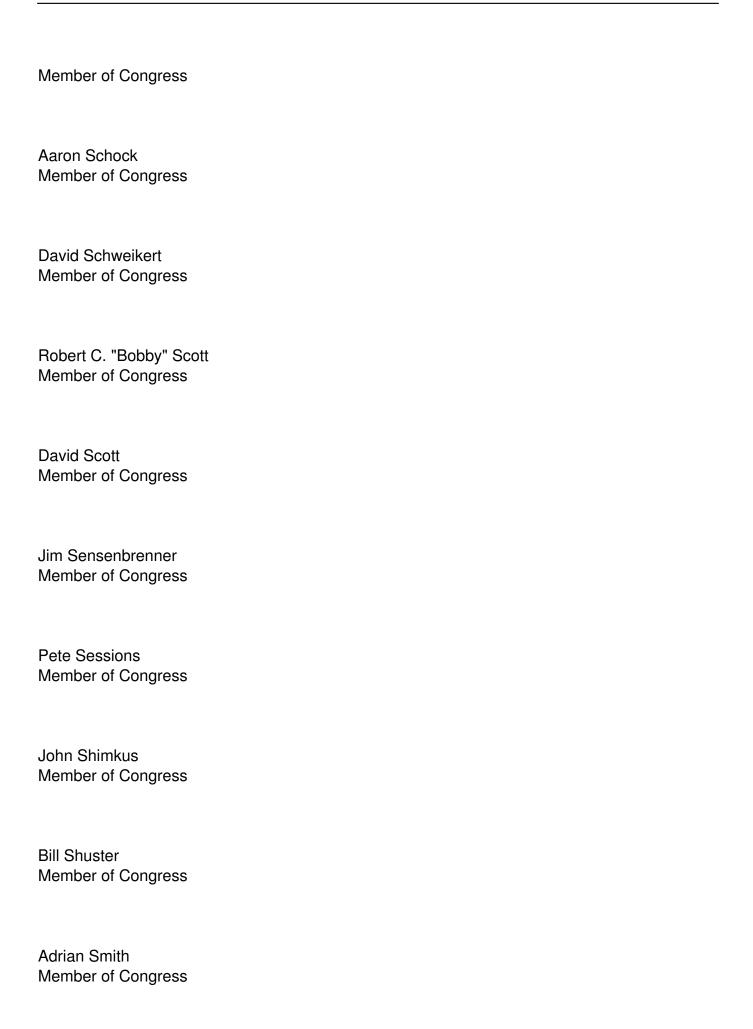




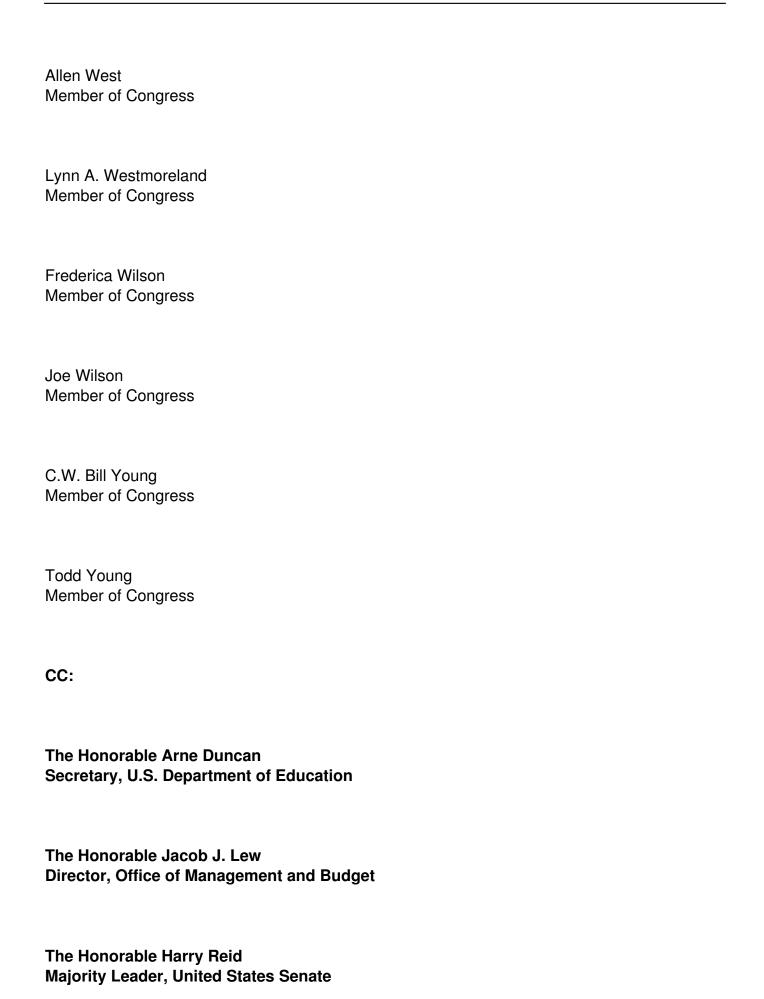












The Honorable Mitch McConnell	
Minority Leader, United States Senate	ڊ

The Honorable Tom Harkin Chairman, U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

The Honorable Mike Enzi Ranking Member, U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

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